

besides the Great Western, he was a representative general of industry and high finance, and moved easily through the world of large concerns, international operations, and would politics. As a result, his children grew up in contact—a contact which in Beatrice's case was close and intelligent, especially in the later years of his life, when she acted as confidential secretary and aide-de-camp, as well as housekeeper—with a "maze of capitalist undertakings" seen through the eyes of one of their controllers, with whom intimately and at first hand acquainted with the ruling forces of the life of the day.

The girls adored their father, as he them, but one, at any rate, pondered early and earnestly over "the ethics of capitalist enterprise" as presented to her by the actions and axioms of a man of high personal character and charm, possessed of what Herbert Spencer called a "noble amiability," who "thought, felt and acted in terms of personal relationships, and not in terms of general principles," and who "had no clear vision of the public good." "A friend" he would assert, "is a person who would back you up when you were in the wrong, who would give your son a place which he could not have won on his merits." Any other conduct he scoffed at, as moral pedantry. Hence, he tended to place the welfare of his family and personal friends to the interests of the companies over which he presided, the profits of these companies to the prosperity of his country, the

dominance
of his own race to the peace of the world " He \\
as eminently
a good man, by his own standards; but "the
circumstances
of mid-Victorian capitalist enterprise were
hostile to any
fixed standard of morality "

Although born a Radical, he had, by the
time his
daughter knew him, long ceased to be one
For him,
Gobden and Bright were fanatics, deceiving
themselves
with notions -Although brought up a
Unitarian, he